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DD/P 4-2845a
10-11-3/2

26 NOV 1958

and
Mr. Ernest Kocherthaler/
Gryphenhubelweg 24
Bern, Switzerland

Dear Ernest:

I was interested to read of the good work you are doing for European youth and for the Western scientific and economic community through the activities of the International Association for Talent Studies.

Unfortunately, there is little I can do to encourage interest in this work on the part of U. S. private foundations; they do not usually welcome Washington "interference" in their affairs. I will, however, mention your activities to personal contacts in such foundations, should the opportunity arise.

I note that the Ford Foundation is already interested in the German branch of the talent association; I wonder if this might constitute a contact which could be further explored through your connections.

I was pleased to hear from Burt, who is currently in the U. S. on a vacation from his post in Bern, that you are planning a visit to the U. S. sometime next year. I shall certainly be looking forward to seeing you here in Washington. Be sure and let us know well in advance of your travel plans.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

STATINTL

✓ cc: DDCI

Signature Recommended:

(Signed)

for

25 NOV 1958

Deputy Director (Plans)

DDP/EE Div/
Retyped Office of C/EE

Approved For Release 2002/01/30 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003800110007-4

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

10-8563/a
26 NOV 1958

and
Mr. Ernest Kocherthaler
Gryphenhubelweg 24
Bern, Switzerland

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Summary and Comments



STATINTL

For your information

STATINTL

The Swiss Association for Talent Studies is an affiliate of the International Association for Talent Studies, both of which organizations were founded in 1957 with headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, as outgrowths of the German Association for Talent Studies.

The German Association for Talent Studies was founded in 1956 by Dr. Reinhold Schairer with the general objective of raising the level of German scientific and technical competence, when Schairer became aware that the USSR was closing the gap between East and West in scientific accomplishment. This was, of course, several years before Sputnik brought the problem to general attention. Schairer's basic contention is that the West cannot survive if it is overtaken by the East in scientific and technical matters. Following its organization, the German Association established contact with the Ford Foundation and received encouragement to branch out into other European countries; a grant of \$25,000 was made for this purpose. Thus the International Association was founded and later a Swiss Association.

The Chairman of the German Association is Leo Brandt, State Secretary for Economics and Transportation of Rheinland-Westfalia. Brandt was Telefunken Director of Research and Development from 1937-45 and thus was familiar with the problem of developing and mobilizing scientific and technical talent.

President of the International Association is Dr. Schairer; president of the Swiss affiliate is Dr. Walter Ruegg, manager of the Swiss Aluminum Manufacturers Association; Mr. Kocherthaler is treasurer of both the International Association and the Swiss affiliate.

The principal task of the Association is to encourage changes in educational systems and in the practices of private enterprise which will increase the number and quality of scientists and engineers. For example, they wish to promote scholarships for talented youngsters from poorer families and encourage private industry to support training for promising apprentices. They feel that the European educational and social structure limits the development of talent to those classes which traditionally are admitted to the universities and that immense numbers of potential scientists and technicians are thereby lost. For these reasons, the Association's work, at least for the present, is to support a general program of educating educators and industry leaders in the need for such changes. As far as is presently known, the Association is not concerned with individual scientists but only with the overall problem of finding ways to discover and develop scientific talent which otherwise would be lost.

21st October,
1958.

BERN, GRYPHENHÜBELIWEIG 24

TELEPHON (081) 4 66 60

K/T

KOCHERTHALER

Dear Allen,

STATINTL

I thank you for the messages I received from you through my friend Burt and the letter I received from Mr. [REDACTED] on your behalf, dated 30.9.58, about my ideological memorandum.

I must however say that I consider it less important to influence by the sociological aspect the Western world, but that I hope to be able to influence the youth beyond the iron curtain if there are means to reach them.

I hear from Swiss quarters that even the younger staff of the party organisation criticises Chrustchew as "peasant dictator" who stops the necessary ideological discussion.

For the Western world it seems to me more important to get the philosophical background to which I referred in the second part of the memo, as I don't see - with exception of the Jesuits - a body which shows a general aspect of life, embodying as well philosophical and theological sides.

As to the "Talent studies organisation" I have become as well a director of the international as of the Swiss organisation, where several Swiss top-men have joined us i.a. Dr. Hummler, federal delegate for economic preparation of war, Dr. Rossey, former general manager of the Nationalbank of Switzerland and now president of the Italo-Swiss, and Dr. Bosshardt, secretary of the Federal school council, who governs the E.T.H.

The Swiss body is preparing together with the Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft a pedagogical extension of technical knowledge, and for the international body I would propose an organisation for securing European inventions for the Western world.

I add a memorandum in German "betr. Erfindungen und Entwicklungen", dated 8.9.58, and the last edition of my formerly sent memo, to which refers [REDACTED] letter of 3.8., as this memo has been improved and extended in the mean time.

STATINTL

I am expecting still some critics of expert friends before publishing.

As to the organisation for securing inventions for the Western world, it would be of special interest whether you consider it possible to secure a real important fund for backing such an organisation by one or several big American foundations, either the Ford Foundation or the Rockefeller Foundation.

Thanking you again for all the kindness of the messages I received from Burt I remain with the best of regards

ever yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "E. M. Dulles".

Mr. Allen Welsh Dulles.

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